



Environmental Bulletin

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from the Savannah River Site

Notice of Availability Record of Decision For the B-Area Operable Unit

The Record of Decision (ROD) Remedial Alternative Selection for the B-Area Operable Unit (BAOU) is being issued by the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), the lead agency for the Savannah River Site (SRS), with concurrence by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency – Region 4 (EPA), and South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (SCDHEC). The BAOU ROD selected a No Further Action for the Early Construction and Operational Disposal Sites (ECODS) B-3 and B-5 subunit and Land Use Controls with Groundwater Monitoring for the Heavy Water Components Test Reactor subunit.

The ROD was completed to meet the terms of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA), a law governing the investigation and cleanup of waste units. The DOE has worked with the EPA and the SCDHEC to ensure the remedial approach is consistent with all applicable environmental requirements.

The BAOU is located in the northwest quadrant of the SRS in Aiken County, South Carolina. The BAOU consists of two subunits: ECODS B-3 and B-5, and the Heavy Water Components Test Reactor. The DOE has performed non-time critical removal actions at both subunits. For the ECODS B-3 and B-5, No Further Action is the selected remedy since it poses no risk to human health or the environment after the removal of the contaminated soil. For the Heavy Water Components Test Reactor subunit, Land Use Controls with Groundwater Monitoring is the selected remedy due to the residual contamination present below ground surface after the removal of the major facility components and grouting for the structure. The Groundwater Monitoring portion of the remedy will monitor the effectiveness of the removal action for 100 years.

Land Use Controls will be implemented in the short-term through the SRS Site Use Program, which provides access controls for on-site workers, and through site access control against trespassing (e.g., fencing and entry control systems). In the long-term, if the property is ever transferred to nonfederal ownership, the deed shall include restrictions precluding residential use of the property.

Copies of the BAOU ROD are available in the Administrative Record. The Administrative Record is available in the information repositories listed below:

DOE Public Reading Room at the Gregg-Graniteville Library at the University of South Carolina (USC)-Aiken campus in Aiken, SC; and Thomas Cooper Library Government Documents Department at USC in Columbia, SC.

Hard copies of the BAOU ROD are available at the following locations:

Reese Library at Augusta State University in Augusta, GA; and
Asa H. Gordon Library at Savannah State University in Savannah, GA.

For additional information, contact Janet Griffin at the address listed below:

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